

REMARKS

At the outset, the undersigned would like to thank Examiner Chang for the courtesies extended during the telephone conversation on 7 July 2005. During that telephone conversation, the parties discussed the proposed Examiner's Amendment faxed to the Applicant's representative on 13 May 2005 (hereinafter, the "Proposed Amendment"), and the status of that Examiner's Amendment relative to the Final Action mailed by the Office on 19 May 2005 (hereinafter, the "Action").

Turning to the Action, Paragraph 3 thereof stated rejections of claims 41-45, 48-52, and 55-59 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,385,650 to Skog, et al. (hereinafter, "Skog"). Paragraph 11 of the Action stated rejections of claims 24-40, 46-47, 53-54, and 60-61 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Skog in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,507,565 to Taylor (hereinafter, "Taylor").

As set forth above in the claim listing, the Applicant has amended the independent claims 41, 48, and 55 substantially as suggested in the Proposed Amendment. Also, independent claims 24 and 33 are amended similarly to the revisions to claims 41, 48, and 55. Finally, the Applicant has also amended dependent claims 42-47, 50, 56-57, and 59-61 to address informalities noted by the Applicant in reviewing the claims. In light of these revisions, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 and § 103 rejections of claims 24-61 as stated in the Action.

Conclusion

The Applicant requests favorable action on this application at the earliest convenience of

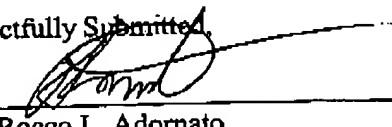
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the Office. If discussion with the Applicant's representative would advance the prosecution of this case, the Office is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Dated: 19 Jul 05

Respectfully Submitted,

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